

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 18 are independent. In light of the remarks made herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sklarew* (USP 5,157,737) in view of *Dymetman et al.* (USP 6,330,976). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Request for Interview

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's granting of an interview scheduled for October 15, 2003. However, due to the Examiner's inability to obtain the file in time for the interview, it was decided between the parties both on October 15, 2003 and October 23, 2003 that Applicants would file a Reply After Final. However, the parties agreed that the Examiner would not consider the Reply After Final until such time that an interview was conducted. As such, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants to schedule an interview. A Request for Personal Interview is attached hereto. It is further respectfully requested that the Examiner take no action on the Reply After Final prior to conducting the interview. Applicants appreciate the consideration shown by the Examiner in this matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In support of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, and in response to Applicants' arguments filed on June 13, 2003, the Examiner responds to Applicants' arguments that *Sklarew* fails to teach or suggest sensing when the handheld device passes over a discontinuity in the absolute position coding pattern as follows:

Examiner would like to point out *Sklarew*'s reference in which the line (In Fig. 11G-H) is a group of pixels that become a line in which when you connect a pixel to a another pixel and become a full line in between there is continuity and discontinuity happening when you lift a pen over a touchscreen between two or three pixels to draw a line. Examiner had rejected the broadest independent claims by thinking broadly of the *Sklarew* reference.

Applicants are confused by the Examiner's comments. It appears that the Examiner is asserting that as there is a discontinuity between pixels, when a handheld device is used to connect the pixels, a line is drawn. As such, it appears that the Examiner is defining the discontinuity as the space between the pixels that forms a line. However, in adopting that interpretation, Applicants fail to understand how *Sklarew* teaches sensing when the handheld device passes over a discontinuity and interpreting the discontinuity as an association regarding the information present on the support as recited in claim 1. It appears that *Sklarew* uses the line that is drawn in Fig. 11H in order to adjust a margin

automatically. Applicants are unclear how two pixels forming a line may be interpreted as an association.

Applicants maintain their position that *Sklarew* fails to teach or suggest sensing when the handheld device passes over a discontinuity in the absolute position coding pattern and interpreting the discontinuity as an association regarding the information present on the support as recited in claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the references as cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination (assuming these references are combinable, which Applicants do not admit), fail to teach or suggest the invention set forth in claim 1.

It is further respectfully submitted that the Reply filed June 13, 2003 incorporated a plurality of arguments against the Examiner's rejection of the claims. However, in response to Applicants' Reply, the Examiner has only addressed Applicants' first argument. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider all of the arguments contained in Applicants' Reply and respond to all of Applicants' arguments in a new non-final Official Action.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-17 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claim 18 contains elements similar to those

discussed above with regard to claim 1 and, thus, claim 18, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

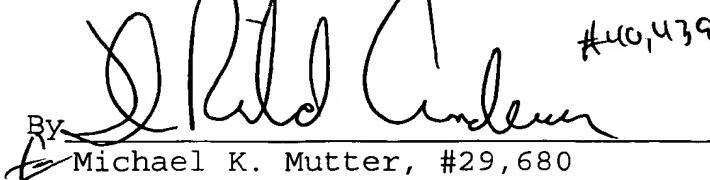
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


By _____
Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

#40,439


MKM/CMV/jdm
3782-0102P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000



PATENT
3782-0102P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: P. ERICSON et al. Conf.: 3839
Appl. No.: 09/826,015 Group: 2673
Filed: April 5, 2001 Examiner: N. PATEL
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2003

REQUEST FOR PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 30, 2003

Sir:

This Request for Personal Interview is being filed concurrently with a Reply After Final. In order to further prosecution in the present application, Applicants respectfully request an Interview. This request is being made pursuant to telephone conferences between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on October 14 and October 23, 2003, wherein the Examiner agreed to conduct an interview with the Applicants prior to formally responding to any Reply. Prior to issuing an Office Action in this matter, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at telephone number (703-208-4005) in order to discuss the outstanding rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Michael K. Mutter, Reg. #29,680

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MKM/CMV/jdm
3782-0102P

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Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000